

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 19, and 23 to clarify the subject matter of the invention.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claims. Applicant has so amended these claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5-7, 8, 10-21, and 24-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sonnier, claims 3 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonnier and Jeong, and claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sonnier and Lee.

Applicant respectfully disagrees. Applicant has, nevertheless, amended the independent claims to recite the use of a "plesiosynchronous technique without transmitting a clock signal." As the Examiner points out, "Sonnier discloses that the clock signal accompanies the symbol stream (i.e., data)." (Office Action, Feb. 28, 2005, p. 3.) As such, Sonnier cannot anticipate the amended claims.

Applicant is puzzled by the Examiner's assertion that Sonnier has a "serial communications link for receiving from and transmitting to an accessing device [TNet links LA connection routers 14A and 14B; Fig. 1B]." (Id. at pp. 3-4.) Sonnier makes it clear that TNet is a parallel communications mechanism. In particular, Sonnier states:

Message packets are synchronously transmitted on the TNet Links L, in bit-parallel, symbol serial fashion, accompanied by a transmitter clock that is provided by the component transmitting the message packet.

(Sonnier, 11:29-32, emphasis added.) Applicant's claims recite that each port has a "serial communications link" that is bit-serial, which is different from Sonnier's bit-parallel mechanism.

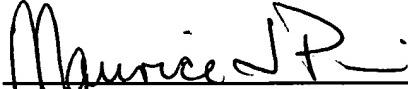
Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully request reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any

questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8548.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 7/28/05



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